

Searcy City Council – Regular Session
Tuesday, February 9, 2021 6:00 p.m.
Minutes

A public hearing had been advertised to be held at 6:00 p.m. on February 9, 2021. The purpose for this public hearing was for the consideration of any public input in determining the amounts of liens to be certified to the White County Tax Collector against certain properties as a result of grass cutting expenses and the abatement of other nuisances that have been incurred by the City of Searcy. Mayor Kyle Osborne opened the public hearing. No person requested to speak. Mayor Osborne closed the public hearing.

Mayor Kyle Osborne called to order the Regular Session of the Searcy City Council. Buck Gibson gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by Rodger Cargile. City Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris called the roll with the following Council members answering “present”: Logan Cothorn, David Morris, Chris Howell, Rodger Cargile, Tonia Hale, Don Raney, Dale Brewer and Mike Chalenburg. Also present was City Attorney Buck Gibson.

The minutes of the regular January 12, 2021 meeting of the Council were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mr. Morris to approve the minutes. The following voted to approve: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn.

Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris presented and read the Treasurer’s Report which lists the following balances as of January 31, 2021: General Fund: \$2,909,018.05; Street Fund \$2,385,610.51; Capital Equipment Fund \$17,875.05; LOPFI Fund \$174,587.23; Act 833 Fund \$72,053.26; Airport Fund \$149,834.26. The total of all of the preceding funds is \$5,708,978.36. He also reported the following balances as of January 31, 2021: Special Highway Connector Route Tax Fund \$2,875,706.38; 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund \$7,664,166.75; 0.25% Fire Protection Services County Sales Tax Fund \$452,475.45; Court Automation Fund \$44,199.55; Advertising and Tourism Promotion Fund \$1,323,690.77. He also reported a total of \$620,485.46 year-to-date in City and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is up \$51,055.49 from the same time in 2020.

Item (5) on the agenda was for the appointment of Marian Colburn to fill an unexpired six-year term on the Searcy Library Board, previously filled by Teri Faust, with the term set to expire on December 31, 2021. A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to appoint Marian Colburn to fill an unexpired six-year term on the Searcy Library Board with the term set to expire on December 31, 2021. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Morris.

Item (6) was for the discussion regarding leaf pickup trucks, trailers, and vacuums. Mayor Osborne suggested that because of the need for working equipment to pick up the

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leaves in the city, he would like to see the city acquire pickup trucks with a 16-foot tow behind trailers with a vacuum system mounted on the trailer. The pickup trucks would allow for an employee that does not have to have a Commercial Drivers License (CDL) to operate. The pickup trucks could be obtained from state bids. He also noted that the approximate cost of the entire unit (truck, trailer, vacuum) would be \$50,000.00. He noted that this would not help for this year but could be ready for next fall and winter. Mayor Osborne said that he believed that three units were needed. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Cothorn to waive bidding because of specialized equipment and proceed with the acquisition of the trucks, trailers, and vacuum systems for leaf pick up purposes. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, and Howell.

Item (7) on the agenda was for the discussion of the availability and possible acquisition of real property located adjacent to the Searcy Sports Complex. Mayor Osborne stated that the property is available for purchase for \$275,000. The acquisition of this property would provide for additional parking for the Sports Complex as well as a building that would provide improved storage area for the Sports Complex. A motion was made by Mr. Cargile and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to proceed toward the purchase of real property located adjacent to the Searcy Sports Complex. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, and Cargile. Mr. Gibson stated that he would work on getting the needed documents together to facilitate the purchase.

Item (8) was for the approval of Hoffmann Architectural Inc. as the architect for the renovation of the newly acquired building to be used as a new location of the Searcy Public Library. Hoffmann Architectural Inc. was selected and recommended by the White County Library Board for the renovation of the building to be used as the new location of the Searcy Public Library. The White County Library Board had received three submissions for Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in response for this project. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Cothorn, to approve the selection of Hoffmann Architectural Inc. for the renovation of the new location of the Searcy Public Library. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, and Hale.

Item (9) on the agenda was for the approval of the additions and deletions to the City of Searcy Fixed Asset Schedule for the calendar year 2020. A listing of the additions and deletions had been provided to the Council prior to the meeting in order to examine the items. Mayor Osborne asked if there were any questions regarding the listing. A motion was made by Mr. Morris and was seconded by Mrs. Hale for the approval of the additions and deletions to the Searcy Fixed Asset Schedule for the calendar year 2020. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney.

Item (10) was for the approval of a change order #1 for an increase of \$113,676.00 on the North Main Street improvement project. Motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to approve the change order on the North Main Street improvement

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project. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, and Brewer.

Item (11) was a resolution approving the amounts of liens against certain properties to be certified to the White County Tax Collector as a result of grass cutting expenses and abatement of other nuisances that have been incurred by the City of Searcy. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mr. Morris to approve the amounts of liens against certain properties to be certified to the White County Tax Collector as a result of grass cutting expenses and abatement of other nuisances that have been incurred by the City of Searcy. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. **Resolution 2021-04**

Item (12) was a resolution for the authorization to execute and perform a certain agreement with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality for a Contract of Obligation pertaining to financial assurance for closure, post-closure care, and corrective care costs at the Searcy Compost Center. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. Motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg and seconded by Mr. Raney to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn. **Resolution 2021-05**

Item (13) was a resolution for the authorization to execute and perform a certain agreement for the disposition and sale of certain real property located on East Moore Avenue to ARCare. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer and seconded by Mrs. Hale to approve the resolution for the authorization to execute and perform a certain agreement for the disposition and sale of certain real property located on East Moore Avenue to ARCare. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn. Mr. Morris abstained from voting. **Resolution 2021-06**

Item (14) on the agenda was a budget ordinance to:

Section 1. The budget for the City of Searcy, Arkansas, is amended in the following manner:

- a. Appropriate \$8,362.05 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to ‘ROLLING MEADOWS/CLOVERDALE DRAINAGE’ expenditure account (#14 5-130-05-02) for Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale Addition drainage improvement project engineering services;
- b. Appropriate \$165,855.76 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to ‘ROLLING MEADOWS/CLOVERDALE DRAINAGE’ expenditure account (#14 5-130-05-02) for Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale Addition drainage improvement project construction services;
- c. Appropriate \$17,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the

Fire Department 'COMPUTER EQUIPMENT/SOFTWARE' expenditure account (#01 5-070-04-05) for software expenses;

- d. Appropriate \$7,500.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Mayor's Department 'LEGAL EXPENSES' expenditure account (#01 5-010-01-11) for expenses related to foreclosure on cleanup liens that have been placed against certain properties;
- e. Appropriate \$17,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Rialto Theater Department 'DONATIONS EXPENDED' expenditure account (#01 5-086-05-01) for seating replacement and other repairs at the Rialto Theater, using donations that have been received for the Rialto Theater;
- f. Appropriate \$20,000.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to the 'COUNTRY CLUB ROAD IMPROVEMENT' expenditure account (#14 5-900-54-01) for work stoppage claims on the Country Club Road improvement project;

Section 2. The Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to expend the following sums:

- a. \$12,799.81 to Stephenson Oil Company for fuel for all departments;
- b. \$108,217.06 to Regions Bank for payment on the loan for the construction of the Searcy Swim Center (#14 5-085-05-01);
- c. Transfer \$125,000.00 from the City of Searcy 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund to the City of Searcy LOPFI Fund for payment of LOPFI retirement obligation (#14 5-190-05-04);
- d. \$8,362.05 to Morrison – Shipley Engineers Inc. for Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale Addition drainage improvement project engineering services (#14 5-130-05-02);
- e. \$165,855.76 to Burkhalter Technologies, Inc. for construction services on the Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale Addition drainage improvement project (#14 5-130-05-02);
- f. \$20,000.00 to RL Persons Construction, Inc., for work stoppage claims on the Country Club Road improvement project (#14 5-900-54-01);

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A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, and Howell. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Cothorn, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, and Cargile. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, and Hale. **Ordinance 2021-04**

The Mayor announced ...

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved:

MAYOR OF SEARCY

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

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